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### **ARIZONA PERINATAL TRUST TURNS 30**

Today Governor Jan Brewer recognizes the birthday of an organization that has made thousands of birthdays possible. For 30 years, the Arizona Perinatal Trust (APT) has helped mothers and newborns receive the critical care they need.

The APT is a non-profit organization established in September 1980 to improve pregnancy outcomes through a regionalized system of perinatal health care. The Trust is dedicated to improving the health of all Arizona mothers and babies through voluntary hospital certification, perinatal education, data analysis and review.

The Trust brings together all levels of maternal and newborn health care providers, hospitals, ADHS, AHCCCS, and perinatal transport companies to ensure uniform access and utilization of all health care delivery services. The public-private partnership ensures that high risk births have happy endings by connecting mothers and babies in need with the health care resources they need - quickly.

"Thanks to the Trust, mothers and babies in even the most remote parts of our state can receive the level of care they need," said Jeanette Shea, Assistant Director of Public Health Prevention at ADHS. "The Trust took the seedling of a state program in 1980 and cultivated it into a program that is copied by other states because of its success."

The Trust builds on what began as a pilot project in public health in the early 1960's. Healthcare workers, concerned citizens and state staff were facing one of the worst infant mortality rates in the country - out of every 1,000 births, 31.8 babies were expected to die. This group knew that transporting babies to hospitals that were specially equipped, would improve outcomes and greatly reduce the number of infant mortalities. Later, it also learned that moving moms before they gave birth to those hospitals would reduce that statistic even more.

Today, thanks to the visionaries and the advent of the Arizona Perinatal Trust, Arizona's infant mortality rate is one of the lowest in the nation. The advances in medical technology surrounding the birth process are vast, but the resources are expensive and not all hospitals can afford them. The Trust helps mothers and babies who are having complications arrive at the appropriate level hospital, in time to make a difference.

The impact the Trust has made in the lives of Arizona's mothers, babies, families and communities is significant. To find out more about the trust and how you can be a part of this exciting endeavor, visit [https://azperinatal.org/Home\\_Page.php](https://azperinatal.org/Home_Page.php).